

***Iowa Outdoors***  
**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**www.iowadnr.gov**

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**June 17, 2008**

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**HENRY AND LEE COUNTIES CLOSED TO RECREATIONAL BOATING**

DES MOINES — Recreational boating is now prohibited on rivers and streams in Henry County. Similar bans are also in place in Lee County and the Mississippi River from mile marker 169 to 482.9, an area from Rock Island, Ill., to St. Louis, by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Meanwhile, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is continuing to advise boaters, kayakers and canoeists to avoid boating on rivers and flood control reservoirs until water levels return to a more normal level.

“High water, especially at the level we are seeing in many places, is dangerous for boaters and paddlers, regardless of the skill level,” said Susan Stocker, boating education coordinator with the Iowa DNR. “There is more to the dangers than the debris you can see. Much of it lies just under the surface or is mixed in with the water from what was flooded upstream.”

“People who boat on floodwater not only put themselves at risk, but they put the people who would have to rescue them at risk. It is best to wait until water levels drop before going boating,” Stocker said.

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**FISHING FOR OSPREY EVENT TO OCCUR AT WHITEROCK CONSERVANCY**

A Fishing for Osprey event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on June 20, at the Whiterock Conservancy. Kay Neumann of Saving Our Avian Resources (SOAR) will present a live bird show at 11:30 a.m. and fishing will ensue after the program.

The goal of the program is to catch as many fish as possible, primarily bluegill and crappie, in the allotted time. The fish will then be donated to the SOAR program, as well as the Iowa DNR's osprey release efforts.

SOAR, established in 1999, is a non-profit organization based upon raptor rehabilitation, education, and conservation. In 2006, ospreys were successfully introduced into Whiterock Conservancy, with all of the birds flying away in October. Osprey will fly to Central and South America for the winter, but the young will not return until they are two years old. They generally breed at 3 to 4 years of age. So, it is possible they may be returning this year in 2008. It is important that these birds have the food and resources they need and fish donated will greatly help the program.

Along with SOAR, the Iowa DNR has assisted with many successful osprey releases across the state of Iowa. Osprey restoration and re-introduction began in 1997, and they have slowly started to nest here for the first time since European settlement. The Iowa DNR has partnered with County Conservation Boards, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other conservation groups in this effort. The Iowa DNR assists these conservation partners with technical assistance, encouragement, and fish to successfully release osprey in Iowa.

So bring the kids to Whiterock Conservancy for an exciting educational experience and a fun afternoon of fishing. Fishing poles for kids will be provided, along with bait. The only materials needed are you, sunscreen, and possibly a lunch.

**For more information, please contact AMERICORPS members Nicki Nagl or Ann Cannon at (515) 432-2823.**

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## **FLOODING AND THE IMPACTS ON TREES**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau has been receiving numerous phone calls on the possible effects of flooding on trees.

The most common question tends to be: "how long can trees survive flooding?" Fortunately, most trees will survive the floods and continue growing for the rest of the season. However, some trees can be sensitive to the duration of the flood waters that cover the roots and may show injury symptoms. Injury symptoms can include leaf chlorosis (yellowing), leaf drop, curling of leaves, and branch dieback. In some extreme

cases the entire tree may die, typically if part or most of the crown of the tree is under water.

Hard maples (sugar, black, and Norway), buckeye, lindens, white oak, red oak, redbud, and most all of the conifers tend to be intolerant of flood damage. Research has indicated that these trees can handle up to a week of flooding without expressing stress symptoms. Boxelder, elm, hackberry, hawthorn, river birch, sycamore, and swamp white oak have been classified as moderately flood-tolerant species. Moderately flood tolerant trees tend to be able to handle 30 consecutive days of flooding with little to no damage. Cottonwood, green ash, honeylocust, silver maple, red maple, and baldcypress are classified as flood tolerant species. Flood tolerant species may be able to handle 60 consecutive days of flooding without damage. Each week beyond the defined flood tolerance time period increases the risk for damage and mortality.

After the flood waters recede, waterlogged soils would be the next concern. Tree roots need oxygen, which would not be accessible in saturated soils. Warm, dry weather is needed after the flood waters recede to prevent further damage from oxygen deprivation to the root system. To keep the trees healthy, prune out all of the deadwood later this season and when you are ready to replant, be certain to plant flood tolerant trees in flood plains.

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## **INVASIVE SPECIES CONFERENCE THURSDAY IN PRAIRIE CITY**

PRAIRIE CITY - The Heart of Iowa Cooperative Weed Management Area is hosting an Invasive Species Workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., June 19, at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Prairie Learning Center, 9981 Pacific St., in Prairie City. There is no charge for the program and participants should bring a sack lunch.

The workshop is geared toward agency staffs, non-profit groups and individuals interested in developing volunteer groups to eradicate invasive species in parks, preserves, private land or native remnants; learning what GIS/GPS can do for them; learning to identify invasive plants; and using appropriate herbicides and equipment.

The workshop is sponsored by Jasper County Conservation Board, Polk County Conservation, Dallas County, Warren County Conservation Board, Madison County Conservation Board, Iowa Heartland Resource Conservation and Development, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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